

Learning Ladder Health Policies (abridged)

Healthy Child Policy

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the risk of spreading disease.

Please note that some children will have frequent illness when they first enter a childcare or school environment. Once the child's immune system becomes more resistant, those illnesses usually decrease in frequency.

Children need to be in good health to get the most out of their school day. It is Learning Ladder's policy that if children are well enough to attend, they must be well enough to participate in all the daily programming, including outdoor activities.

Inclusion or Exclusion Due to Illness

Learning Ladder has certain responsibilities with respect to the health and well-being of the children enrolled. A child shall not attend or remain in early care and/or educational setting if a parent or care giver sees any General or Routine Exclusion Criteria listed below:

General Exclusion Criteria

- **Child is unable to comfortably participate in activities**
- **Staff is unable to care for ill child without risking the health and safety of other children**
- **Child illness could risk spreading a significant infectious disease to others**

Routine Exclusion Criteria

- Acting / appearing ill (lethargy/lack of responsiveness, Irritability, Persistent crying, Difficulty breathing)
- Fever
- Wheezing that is not already evaluated/treated
- Blue colored skin/mucus membranes (cyanosis)
- Breathing can be heard when a child is resting (not otherwise explained)
- Quick spreading rash
- Blood-red/purple rash not from an injury

Exclusion Period

Children will be excluded until they have been free of symptoms for *24 hours without medication*, and all Exclusion Criteria are resolved and all criteria for a diagnosed illness have been resolved.

NOTE: In the forming of this exclusion policy, the focus of concern is on the needs and behavior of the ill child and the ability of the staff to meet those needs without compromising the care of all other children in the group and to prevent the spread of illness.

Communicable Diseases

Parents are required to report any communicable disease to the office.

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Some diseases will require a statement from a physician before a child may return to the program. Learning Ladder is required to report some disease to the Dane County Health Department.

When Learning Ladder is notified that a child is diagnosed with a communicable disease by a medical professional, a notice will be posted on the central parent board. These notices will not contain personally identifying information but will include the name of the condition and the number of program participants known to have contacted the illness.

Ill Child Pick-up

When a child shows symptoms of an illness, parent(s) will be notified. Parents are required to pick up their child within 1 hour of notification. Learning Ladder does not have the mandated resources to provide isolated space and individual attention for children who are ill or unable to participate in classroom activities.

Learning Ladder's Health Policy was created under the guidance of the Early Childhood Health Consultation (EHC). The EHC, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, has developed a collection of national best health & safety practices for early care and education in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, and National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care & Early Education.